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Mar 25, 1865

Since the summer of 1864 Grant had besieged Richmond and Petersburg. The progress of the siege had been slow but persistent until, soon after the middle of Feb. 1865, he began to consider the eventuality of abandoning both cities.

He infused an energy into his sortie 18 Mar 75, which, though the attempt

was unsuccessful, demonstrated that
there was still a great deal of fight in him
and his Army. The Unionists did not entirely
encircle Richmond & Petersburg but left open
an avenue of escape to the west and southwest
the Railroads to both cities were in operation
Grant feared the union of Lee's & Johnston's army